

Copy of letter from Frederick Ouvry to his sister Miss Francisca Ingram Ouvry.
(Postmark Sudbury April 8th, 1848).

Alpheton.(?)
Friday.

My dear Sister,

I had not time to write to you before I left town as to our Stratford Expedition which was a very pleasant one.

We left London at 10 o'clock on Saturday and arrived at Warwick about 2. We went over the Castle. The pictures are finer than I had from recollection thought. The Arundel portrait is magnificent and others almost equally so.

We also went over the Church and Leicester's Hospital. The latter I had not before seen. It is a very interesting old building and has just been properly restored. We saw two of the inmates very fine old soldiers who had been all through the peninsular war. They had £80 a year each besides their lodgings and are therefore very comfortably provided for.

We left Warwick soon after 5 in a fly and arrived at Stratford in time to dine Dr Thompson the Chairman of the Stratford Committee, a very intelligent Scotchman, who gave us a very good dinner.

On Sunday we went to Church and afterwards walked about the neighbourhood till we were tired. It was a beautiful day. We dined with Mr Flower a "brewer" in the Town, and then adjourned to the Shakespeare Hotel where some other men were staying and finished the Evening with Brandy and water.

Monday was not so fine but still not bad enough to prevent our morning out. We first inspected the documents existing at Stratford relating to Shakespeare, the Corporation Books, the parish Registers etc. Mr Wheler a Solicitor has the most interesting collection of documents, some of them very curious.

At 12 the Royal Shakespearian Club met and elected us Honorary Members and we went to Charlecote. The exterior of the House is very venerable but inside all is modern antique tho' done in very good style and furnished splendidly. There are some good pictures, but many more indifferent.

Then the dinner took place of which I send you an account from the Daily News, which please preserve. You will see the important fact of my presence is duly noticed.

Mr Collier spoke admirably and was greatly applauded.

The dinner was not over till near 12, when Lord Morpeth Mr Collier Mr Cunningham and I with some two or three others adjourned to Dr Thompsons and had tea. Mr Collier soon went home and at one o'clock we all departed and walked with Lord Morpeth to his hotel.

Then we went back to the Town Hall and found the Mayor and some thirty more busy with brandy and water and cigars. There we remained till near three and Mr Butterworth, one of the London Committee favoured us with a Comic song. At eight the next morning Mr Collier and I started and stopped at Coventry for an hour to see the Churches and St. Mary's Hall and then came on to town.

I am sorry I could not come down to Acton to dinner but I did not get to town till 4. I was not shaved and very tired so that I went to bed soon after 8 o'clock.

I reached here yesterday at dinner time and in the Evening we let off some fireworks which I had brought down and which excited immense applause, one of the little deaths(?) observing that "he would have given a penny to see that".

Today is cold gloomy and wet but as I have to be in doors all day it does not so much matter.

I am to dine with the Clergyman.

Believe me,

Your affec. Brother

Frederic Quivy.